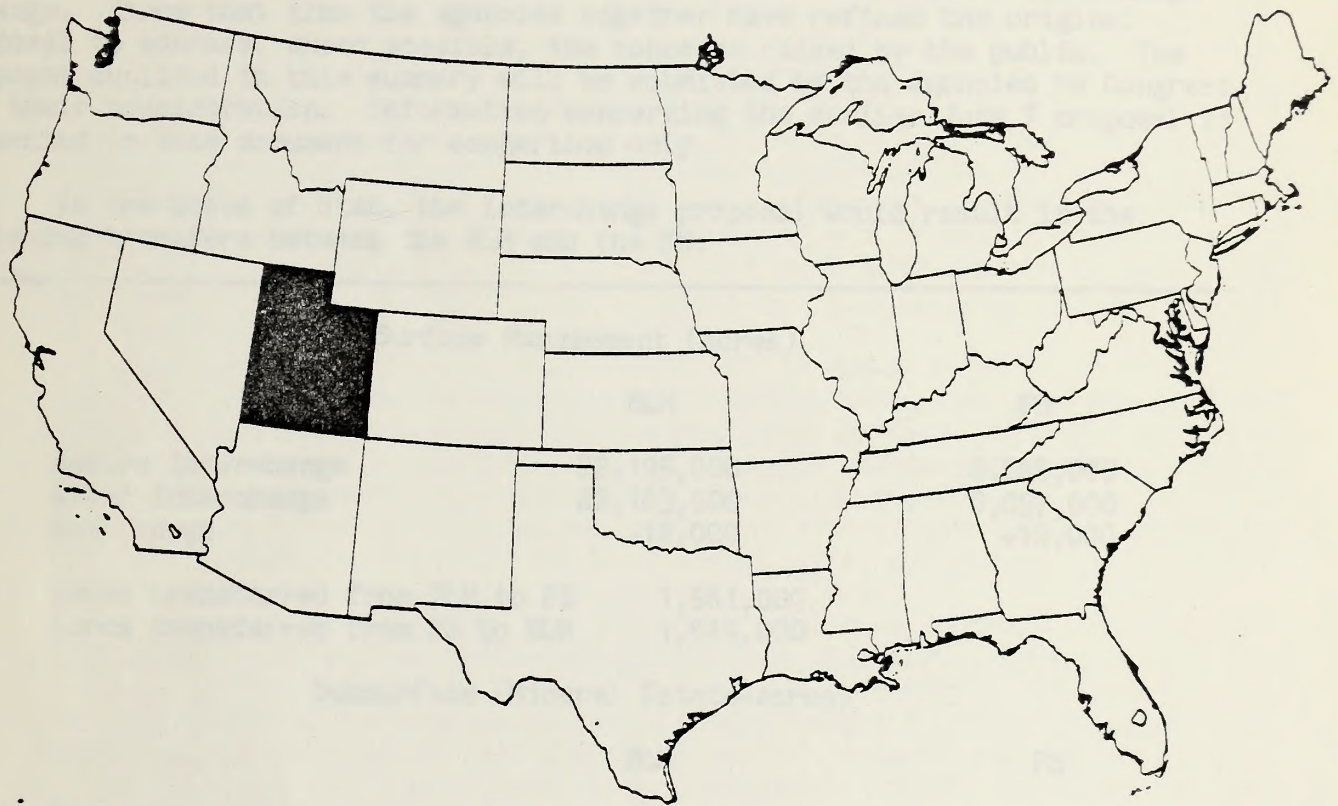


BLM/FS INTERCHANGE

Summary

UTAH



PREPARED BY:

Intermountain Region

Utah State Office

FOREST SERVICE

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



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INTERCHANGE IMPLEMENTATION SUMMARY STATE OF UTAH

I. OVERVIEW

The following summarizes the proposed Interchange for the State of Utah. This summary includes a review of the public involvement, the proposed action, the anticipated costs and savings, and the actions identified during the study that can be taken independently of the Interchange. More detailed information is available for review in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) State Office in Salt Lake City or the Forest Service (FS) Regional Office in Ogden.

State summaries were first published as part of the June 7 Interchange package. Since that time the agencies together have refined the original proposal to address, where possible, the concerns raised by the public. The proposal outlined in this summary will be submitted by the agencies to Congress for their consideration. Information concerning the earlier June 7 proposal is presented in this document for comparison only.

In the State of Utah, the Interchange proposal would result in the following transfers between the BLM and the FS:

Surface Management (Acres)

	BLM	FS
Before Interchange	22,195,000	8,045,000
After Interchange	22,183,000	8,057,000
Net Change	-12,000	+12,000
Acres transferred from BLM to FS	1,561,000	
Acres transferred from FS to BLM	1,549,000	

Subsurface (Mineral Estate-Acres)

	BLM	FS
Before Interchange	31,244,000	0
After Interchange	22,703,000	8,541,000

The FS would manage lands and the mineral estate along the "backbone" of the State. The boundary line runs from (beginning in the north) Cornish to Newton to the Bear River to Interstate 15, then southward to Cedar City, then eastward along State Highway 14 to the Dixie National Forest boundary. It continues eastward along that boundary through Alton to the west boundary of Bryce Canyon National Park, then along State Highway 12 to Boulder, then generally northward through Price and Colton to Stockmore, and then east along the Ashley National Forest boundary to intersect with the Wyoming State line north of Little Hole. The remainder of the State as well as the Crawford Mountains east of the Bear River would be under BLM jurisdiction.

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All communities currently housing a FS or BLM office or both would continue to house an agency office after the Interchange.

Savings would result from a merger of the present BLM District and Forest Supervisors' Offices in Richfield and Cedar City, restructuring the field boundaries to achieve optimum size and balance between subunits, and eliminating duplicate positions in field and headquarters offices. An estimated 47 permanent full-time positions would be saved. The number of BLM District Offices would reduce from five to four and the number of Forest Supervisors' Offices would reduce from six to four.

II. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public involvement has been an integral part of refining the original Interchange proposal. BLM and FS representatives conducted 11 open houses, a formal public hearing, and numerous meetings with the Governor, the State's Congressional Delegation, County Commissioners, user groups, permittees, State Government personnel, news media, and interest groups in Utah. Two hundred and sixty seven responses to the Interchange proposal originated in Utah during the formal public review, from June 7 to July 8. One of these was a petition with 54 signatures.

The three major goals of the Interchange proposal--enhanced public service, improved management efficiency, and reduced agency costs--received statewide support. However, the sentiment of the majority of Utah commenters was that the current system works as it is and should be left intact. They felt that the Interchange as proposed would negatively impact current operations. A few respondents indicated the Interchange would work in certain areas.

Of the specific proposals for the State, the one receiving the most attention concerned the Dixie National Forest. Most respondents from southern Utah opposed the transfer to BLM of the Pine Valley Ranger District of the Dixie National Forest and the merger of the Supervisor's Office into the Fishlake Forest Supervisor's Office in Richfield. They were concerned about negative community impacts, particularly on Cedar City. Some noted that Richfield was not as centrally located as Cedar City. Some suggested maintaining the District and adding to it BLM lands along the southern boundary.

A large number of respondents disliked the proposal to merge the Uinta Forest Supervisor's Office in Provo into the Manti-LaSal Supervisor's Office in Price, citing Provo's better accessibility, the excellent working relationships between Provo employees and the city, and the potential economic impact on Provo.

Several respondents expressed concern that the proposed Interchange may have an adverse impact on Project Bold, a plan to exchange the checkerboard patterned State and Federal lands in Utah as a means of creating more manageable blocks of land. Several government agencies were also concerned that land would not be available for "quality grant selections" if transferred to the FS. These concerns have been addressed through the proposed legislation.

Some commenters were concerned about transferring minerals management authority to the FS; some felt that it would result in the State losing minerals leasing funds. The proposal, however, provides that minerals management policies and procedures would not change.

In response to the public, options to the above concerns were studied. The proposal to transfer the Pine Valley Ranger District was retained since the alternatives would not as effectively achieve the goals of the Interchange. The Pine Valley Ranger District is isolated from other FS lands and would therefore be more efficiently managed by the BLM. Likewise, Price is a more central location for managing the Uinta combined with the Manti-LaSal National Forests, and for serving forest users. No changes were made in the June 7 proposal.

III. PROPOSED ACTION

A. Communities Affected

Following is a description of the proposal as it relates to office changes in communities.

The Uinta National Forest Supervisor's Office in Provo would merge into the Manti-LaSal National Forest Supervisor's Office in Price. The BLM Price and the San Rafael Resource Area Offices would merge. The merged office would report to the Vernal District, but would be located in Price.

The Heber Ranger District of the Manti-LaSal would be managed out of the Ashley National Forest, with the office remaining in Heber.

Pleasant Grove and Spanish Fork Ranger Districts would be merged.

Warm Springs and House Range Resource Area Offices in Fillmore would merge into one Resource Area Office.

The BLM Richfield District would merge into the Fishlake National Forest, the BLM Salt Lake District, and the BLM Moab District. No BLM offices would remain in Richfield.

The Dixie National Forest Supervisor's Office located in Cedar City would merge into the Fishlake National Forest Supervisor's Office in Richfield. The Cedar City Ranger District Office would remain.

The Monticello Ranger District Office would merge into the BLM San Juan Resource Area Office located in Monticello.

The Moab Ranger District Office would merge into the BLM Grand Resource Area Office in Moab.

The Duchesne and the Roosevelt Ranger District Offices would merge, with the combined office located in Duchesne. A field office would remain in Roosevelt.

The Pine Valley Ranger District Office would merge into the BLM Dixie Resource Area Office in St. George.

B. Office and Staffing Changes

The following table shows office changes that would occur as a result of the proposed Interchange, and staffing changes of three or more. Currently 10 communities maintain both BLM and FS offices. After the Interchange, this number would reduce to six as a result of office mergers in Richfield, Moab, Monticello, and St. George. There are currently 975 FS and 604 BLM permanent positions in the State. The Interchange would result in a net personnel savings of 47 positions. These reductions would be accomplished through attrition, so no adverse personnel actions would be necessary. After the Interchange is fully implemented, there would be 960 FS and 572 BLM positions in the State.

Community	Exisiting Offices	<u>Proposed Changes</u>		<u>Net Staff Change</u>	
		June 7	Revised	June 7	Revised
Cedar City	BLM DO	BLM DO	BLM DO	-57	-57
	BLM RA	BLM RA	BLM RA		
	FS SO	FS RD	FS RD		
	FS RD				
Duchesne	FS RD	NC	NC	- 4	- 4
Ferron	FS RD	NC	NC	+ 3	+ 3
Fillmore	BLM RA(2)	BLM RA	BLM RA	- 5	- 5
	FS RD	FS RD	FS RD		
Heber	FS RD	NC	NC	+ 3	+ 3
Monticello	BLM RA	BLM RA	BLM RA	- 3	- 3
	FS RD				
Moab	BLM DO	BLM DO	BLM DO	0	0
	BLM RA	BLM RA	BLM RA		
	FS RD				
Ogden	FS RO	NC	NC	+26	+26
	FS RD	NC	NC		
Panquitch	FS RD	NC	NC	+ 3	+ 3
Price	FS SO	FS SO	FS SO	+10	+10
	FS RD	FS RD	FS RD		
	BLM RA(2)	BLM RA	BLM RA		
Provo/	FS RD(2)	FS RD	FS RD	-37	-37
Pleasant Gr	FS SO				
Spanish Frk					
Richfield	FS SO	FS SO	FS SO	-14	-14
	FS RD	FS RD	FS RD		
	BLM DO				
	BLM RA				
Roosevelt	FS RD	FS FO	FS FO	0	0
St. George*	BLM DO	BLM DO	BLM DO	0	0
	BLM RA(3)	BLM RA(3)	BLM RA(3)		
	FS RD				

(continued)

Community	Existing Offices	<u>Proposed Changes</u>		<u>Net Staff Change</u>	
		June 7	Revised	June 7	Revised
Salt Lake City	BLM SO	NC	NC	+ 8	+ 8
	BLM DO	NC	NC		
	BLM RA(2)	NC	NC		
	FS SO	NC	NC		
	FS RD	NC	NC		
Vernal	FS SO	NC	NC	+12	+12
	FS RD	NC	NC		
	BLM DO	NC	NC		
	BLM RA (2)	NC	NC		
Change of less than 3 positions each in Beaver, Ephriam, Escalante, Hanksville, Kanab, Loa, Moab, and Teasdale				+ 8	+ 8
Net Change:				-47	-47

Note: BLM SO = State Office, BLM DO = District Office, FS SO = Supervisor's Office, FS RD = Ranger District, FS FO = Field Office, FS RO = Regional Office, NC = No change

*The District Office and two of the Resource Area Offices in St. George administer lands in the Arizona Strip.

C. Lands and Minerals

The immediate plan is for a public room and a central repository of lands and minerals records to continue to be located in the BLM State Office in Salt Lake City. The adjudication or processing of minerals cases would be done in Salt Lake City by both FS and BLM employees working side-by-side in the BLM State Office. Environmental studies, stipulations, and decisions relative to minerals cases would be done by field offices of the two agencies. Lands cases would be noted on the official records in Salt Lake City, but almost all lands case processing and management would be done at the field offices at both agencies.

The shared services proposal envisioned in Utah would satisfy the need of the public for a single records center of Federal lands and minerals in Utah.

As the implementation progresses and a current effort to computerize more of the lands and minerals records continues, more decentralization of the adjudication process could occur. This would provide the Utah public with ready access to the central records repository by accessing through remote terminals at District and Supervisor's Offices throughout the State of Utah.

D. Public Service

The Interchange proposal provides for improved public service in the minerals management area by placing the surface management and the minerals estate management in the same agency. The FS would be responsible for leasing the minerals estate within its jurisdictional area.

One-stop service would be achieved in land and mineral status records. To facilitate record keeping, adjudicative services, and the operation of the public room, BLM and FS would operate on a shared services basis at the BLM State Office.

The number of dual permits held by public land users would decrease. This is especially true for those users located along the high mountain valleys in northern and central Utah, and those lands contiguous to the Pine Valley Mountains, the LaSal Mountains, and the Abajo Mountains.

Consolidation of jurisdiction in southeastern Utah would increase efficiencies in protection and management of archaeological resources.

The proposed consolidation to four Forest Supervisor's Offices and four BLM District offices would not affect field operations but would strengthen on-the-ground management in Utah.

IV. ANTICIPATED COSTS AND SAVINGS

A. 5-Year Implementation Costs

Personnel costs	\$2,503,000
Space costs	791,000
Other costs	370,000
Total	\$3,664,000

B. Savings the First 5 Years

Personnel savings	\$5,082,000
Space savings	1,477,000
Other savings	1,495,000
Total	\$2,084,000

C. Average Annual Savings After Implementation--\$2,084,000 (Most savings would result from reduced personnel costs.)

V. ACTIONS THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN INDEPENDENTLY OF INTERCHANGE

Both agencies should co-locate field organizations in the communities of Moab, Escalante, and St. George.

Other administrative actions that should be taken include strengthening protection of archaeological resources from vandalism in southeastern Utah, with cooperative funding for site recordation, law enforcement patrols, and stabilization.

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